

destroyed reactor of Chernobyl power plant. I would ask the Congress to support virulent programs.

Step six, we want to see more Ukrainian students learning in U.S. universities over the next 5 years. I would encourage the Congress to finance such educational programs for Ukrainian students.

Step seven, Ukraine has agreed to waive visa regime for United States citizens. I would request the U.S. Government to, in the speediest possible manner, make a reciprocal step in relation to Ukrainian students, politicians, and business people.

Step eight, on behalf of Ukraine, I would ask you to include it in the list of participants of the Millennium Challenge program.

Following these priorities, we can make many others happen. For this, we have necessary possibilities in different areas. We welcome investments in the Ukraine's economy and are committed to creating a most favorable climate for the U.S. and all other international investors. It is in our own mutual interests to achieve as many success stories as possible of American enterprise in Ukraine.

The U.S. and Ukraine have common strategic interests, and we have unity in one thing. Everywhere possible we want to uphold freedom and democracy. We are committed to such a responsibility because we know if somebody is deprived of freedom, this freedom has been taken away from us.

Eleven years ago, my country voluntarily gave up the world's third largest nuclear arsenal. Ukraine made the world a safer place to live. Time has shown that this decision has not always met the kind of appreciation it deserved. Nevertheless, we remain committed to jointly counter the threats posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, missile and nuclear technologies.

Ukraine will be a reliable partner to the U.S. in fighting terrorism. I am sure we will be able to overcome it and not only by power of force. It is our obligation to eradicate the sources of terrorism. We can defeat the ideology of hatred that nourishes it. I am fully convinced that the time will come when in the dictionary of world languages, the term "terrorism" will be followed by the footnote, "archaic term." The same footnote, I am sure, will also accompany other shameful phenomena like racism, discrimination, and slavery.

We are witnessing the first successes of freedom in Iraq where Ukrainian soldiers are risking their lives shoulder to shoulder with their American counterparts. Ukraine is eager to continue its support to a democratically elected Iraqi Government in addressing its economic and security challenges.

The array of subjects for our dialogue is endless, but I would prefer to see the

leading role played not by governmental, but by public diplomacy. Before my departure for the U.S., I received a letter from a group of respectable Ukrainian and American organizations proposing concrete and relevant subjects for expanding our dialogue. These initiatives I am sure are worthy of being supported.

Ladies and gentlemen, John Fitzgerald Kennedy took an oath before the whole world by saying, "We shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe, to assure the survival and the success of liberty." I am subscribing to these words on behalf of Ukraine. This authority was given to me by my fellow countrymen who endured days and nights in bitter cold and snow on the Maidan. Ukraine is free and will always remain free. Citizens of Ukraine gained their freedom due to their courage and support of friends and proponents of democracy across the world.

In these days I want to recall one of them, Pope John Paul II, who said, "Following the path of truth is sometimes difficult, but never impossible."

We have embarked upon this road and will never step away from it. Together we are many, and together we are not defeated. God bless America. God protect Ukraine.

Thank you.

[Applause, the Members rising.]

At 11 o'clock and 40 minutes a.m., His Excellency Viktor Yushchenko, the President of Ukraine, accompanied by the committee of escort, retired from the Hall of the House of Representatives.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms escorted the invited guests from the Chamber in the following order:

The Members of the President's Cabinet; The Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps.

#### JOINT MEETING DISSOLVED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The purpose of the joint meeting having been completed, the Chair declares the joint meeting of the two Houses now dissolved.

Accordingly, at 11 o'clock and 44 minutes a.m., the joint meeting of the two Houses was dissolved.

The Members of the Senate retired to their Chamber.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The House will continue in recess until approximately 12:15 p.m.

□ 1215

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro

tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN) at 12 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m.

#### PRINTING OF PROCEEDINGS HAD DURING RECESS

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the proceedings had during the recess be printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain ten 1-minute speeches per side.

#### DEERE-HITACHI CONSTRUCTION MACHINERY CORPORATION

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, recently I had the opportunity to visit Deere-Hitachi Construction Machinery Corporation in North Carolina's Fifth District. This plant manufactures hydraulic excavators which are used widely in the construction industry as earthmoving and utility-type tracked digging machines.

The company is a joint venture between John Deere and Hitachi Construction Machinery located in Tokyo, Japan. The company, formed in 1988, is a rare mix of American and Japanese cultures. This combination manifests itself in an extraordinary safety, quality, and delivery record.

As a result, Hitachi has grown significantly in the past 3 years. Production volumes of both John Deere and Hitachi-brand models have risen to over 6,000 units. This is remarkable given the machines are 12 to 33 tons in operating weight. In addition, employment in the facility has doubled in size to over 750 direct employees.

A portion of this growth has been fueled by the localization of models that were formerly produced in Asia to Kernersville, North Carolina. This has had a positive impact on the local economy in North Carolina, as well as nationally. I am honored to have a facility such as Deere-Hitachi located in my district.

#### PRESIDENT PARTICIPATES IN SOCIAL SECURITY CONVERSATIONS

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the President of the United States,